

May 13, 2014

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on May 13, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Cohen, Kimmel-Dagostino, G. Davis, Kraemer, Miranda, Virobik and Chairperson K. Davis

Absent: None

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE AND INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Kramer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

I got fired for being overweight. My legs were so heavy, I couldn't click my heels.

Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Peter G. Peterson

If evolution really works, how come mothers have only two hands?

Milton Berle

People who are brutally honest get more satisfaction out of the brutality than out of the honesty.

Richard J. Needham

How lucky I am to have something that makes saying good-bye so hard.

A.A. Milne

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Miranda moved and Commissioner Virobik seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of May 13, 2014. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner G. Davis moved and Commissioner Miranda seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of April 8, 2014, as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Commissioner Griffith, Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults (LACCOA)

Kathryn Endo-Roberts, Cultural Arts Commissioner

Julie Dojiri, Civic Affairs Chairperson for South Bay New Horizons

Gina Semana

Kay Grundhaus

Les Grundhaus

7. PRESENTATION: "Torrance Fire Department's Response to 911 Emergency Calls"

Fire Captain Morrow introduced Fire Engineer Facer, Firefighter Paramedic Laponis, Firefighter Paramedic Wilson and Fire Auxiliary Hagen. Fire Captain Morrow noted that he and his staff were from Engine 97, Station 1 at 1701 Crenshaw Boulevard.

Fire Captain Morrow explained that in answer to a 911 call, to ensure the best possible care, three units were sent out for each call: an engine, a rescue and ambulance. He noted that the goal for the response time was three to five minutes.

Fire Captain Morrow stated that all three of the units were sent to a 911 call, so that a high level of expertise would be available to handle any situation that might arise. He noted that the units and personnel had different responsibilities and duties on the scene, but always worked together as a team. He added that the Department handled between 13,000 to 14,000 calls per year and that 75% of the calls were for emergency medical services.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cohen, Fire Captain Morrow stated that the ambulances were on the scene to transport people to the hospital, as the paramedics did not provide the transport.

Responding to questions from Commissioner Miranda, Fire Captain Morrow stated that the Fire Department did not bill for their services and did not carry firearms.

Fire Captain Morrow described the advanced paramedic methods and equipment that the Department offered for treatment of strokes and breathing difficulties.

Fire Captain Morrow stated that home rescue alert services were able to pass on any information that was on file for the caller to the Fire Department dispatcher, so that the Fire Department would have the information as they were enroute to the home. He noted that it was very helpful to have the address of the home clearly visible to emergency services.

Fire Captain Morrow stated that "Vials of Life" were very valuable to have available in the home and noted that it was one of the first things he looked for when he arrived on the scene. He added that he would have a bulk packet of the "Vials of Life" dropped off at the Bartlett Center, so that they were available for distribution.

Fire Captain Morrow stated that the number of 911 calls that someone could make was unlimited, especially in the case of needing assistance following a fall.

Commissioner G. Davis expressed her thanks and admiration to the firefighters that had responded to her 911 call for her husband and stated that they all had done a terrific job.

Fire Captain Morrow noted that the transport would be to the nearest hospital that was best equipped and available to handle each particular case.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino, Fire Captain Morrow stated that having an "in case of emergency", "ICE" information on your cell phone that included your name, a contact name and drug information was a valuable tool for emergency responders.

Fire Captain Morrow explained that all firefighters hired by Torrance needed to be at least an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), but he added that the City attempted to hire firefighters that were already paramedics. He noted that the Department also hired veterans. He explained that the budget cut backs in the department had been handled through attrition or positions being transferred to civil positions.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Fire Captain Morrow stated that the Department was currently in the progress of training and hiring new employees. He said that the minimum age for a fire fighter was 21 and that there was no maximum age.

Fire Auxiliary Hagen explained that as a member of the auxiliary program, he volunteered one day a week for a 24 hour shift and would be attending paramedic training in June.

In response to a question from Chairperson K. Davis, Fire Captain Morrow stated that the department did have thermal imaging cameras to use at fires, but noted that budget cuts had impacted the repair and maintenance of the equipment, with the result that some of the equipment was not operational.

There was a discussion of the Gerber Ambulance provider service being taken over by Care Ambulance.

Fire Captain Morrow detailed alternates for obtaining transportation to the doctor, pharmacy, hospital etc. without calling 911:

- Call Ambulance Service to transport for a fee
- Use the City's Dial-a-Lift Service
- Use the City's Senior Ride (Dial-a-Taxi) program
- Call insurance to check what individual policy will cover

Responding to a question from Julie Dojiri, Fire Captain Morrow stated that it was important that care givers at New Horizons: know the medical information for their patients, know where a copy of the medical information was located, be able to come out and direct the emergency responders to the location of the apartment unit and be prepared to lock the apartment, if necessary.

There was a discussion about the programs that the Police, Fire Department and County had in place to deal with hoarders.

In response to a question from Commissioner G. Davis, Fire Captain Morrow stated that Torrance Firefighters were not the highest paid in the South Bay and there had not been a raise in five years. He noted that many firefighters made extra money by working overtime, but that now there were fewer opportunities for overtime. He added that the regular shift now was two days on and four days off.

Fire Captain Morrow stated that there were currently two females in the Fire Department.

8. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that on April 15, consent to assignment had been granted to transfer the contract for Gerber Ambulance to FCA Corporation and then onto Care Ambulance Service.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the City Council had approved the installation of wi-fi for the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center and the Russ Nolte Annex. She stated that she did not know when the wi-fi would be installed.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the City Yard would have an Open House on June 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that the City was trying to consolidate parcels of land in the City with the hope of leasing or developing the combined pieces. She added that the City

had appropriated \$7500 to host the national AYSO games from the Economic Development Reserve funds.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that Measure R funds would be used to change the turn lanes at the intersection of Anza Avenue, Pacific Coast Highway and Vista Montana.

There was a discussion of the proposed changes to the street sweeping signs. Commissioner Kraemer added that street cleaning was an EPA requirement.

B. Housing

None

C. Health

Commissioner Virobik reported on Senate Bill (SB) 1124 which would impose limits or change most of the optional recovery provisions for the California Medi-Cal Recovery program and allow families of Medi-Cal beneficiaries to keep their family homes. She noted that the vote could be sometime in June

Chairperson K. Davis reported on an article by Helen Dennis detailing information on the lack of Medicare coverage for hearing aids.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Kimmel-Dagostino reported that Transit would go before the Council on:

- May 20 to request the purchase of replacement of compressed natural gas and diesel bus engines.
- June 10 to request approval to extend the security and interior bus cleaning agreements.
- June 24 to request the approval to complete the painting of the final 13 of the red buses to the current green and to seek approval to submit the annual State Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim for the fiscal year 2014-15 in the amount of \$6,906,099.

E. Community Programs

Chairperson K. Davis reported that she had received a letter from Debra Reed requesting help in selecting the 2014-2015 Youth Council representatives on June 12 and 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the ATTIC. Commissioner Cohen stated that he would attend the meetings and Commissioner G. Davis stated that she would be an alternate, if needed. Chairperson K. Davis noted that she would inform Debra Reed that Commissioner Cohen would attend.

Chairperson K. Davis distributed information on upcoming dates for Library focus groups and noted that she and Commissioner Cohen had already attended one of the focus groups on April 28.

Chairperson K. Davis reported that she and Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand had attended the County's Older Americans Recognition program on May 8 with Torrance awardee Robert J. Chiota. She added that this evening was the Older Americans Recognition at the City Council meeting and thanked the Commissioners for their nominations.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that the Senior Fair was successful.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Virobik reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

April 2014

Total number of documented calls: 53	Total number of callbacks: 12
Miscellaneous calls: 82	Total number of walk-ins: 19
Total number of calls received: 135	

Of the documented calls:

24.5% were for transportation	38% were for housing
11.3% were for in home services	

Commissioner Virobik reported that Focal Point volunteer Letty Molinas had received recognition by the City Council in April for her outstanding volunteer service to the City.

Commissioner Virobik noted that Focal Point was still seeking additional volunteers.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Commissioner Virobik explained that most callers requesting information on transportations had no knowledge of the services that were available in the City, but also had no means to travel to City Hall to sign up for the services.

There was a discussion of a method to make it easier for people to sign up for taxi and ride services and what information was needed to enroll.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

There was a discussion of various phone scams.

9. SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Commissioner G. Davis stated that she and Commissioner Virobik had attended the Village concept meeting in Palos Verdes and noted that there were over 200 people in attendance. She explained the Village concept in general and the Westchester Playa Village concept in more detail.

Commissioner G. Davis announced that she had organized a focus group for May 20 of organizations who work with seniors, to seek feedback on the Village concept. She noted that many volunteers would be needed for the program to be successful and that she was in the process of collecting contact information from interested individuals and organizations.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that the program was not a City or Commission program, although all Commissioners were welcome to participate.

It was decided to remove the Senior Outreach Program from the agenda for future meetings.

10. OLDER AMERICANS RECOGNITION

Chairperson K. Davis stated that she and Commissioners G. Davis and Miranda would attend the Older Americans Recognition ceremony this evening, May 13. She added that she would send a press release that included all of the honorees: Robert J. Chiota, Frances Glauber and Harriet Apsel, to the Torrance Tribune and the Daily Breeze.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand noted that all of the honorees were thrilled to have been chosen.

11. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was noted that the Commission was dark in June.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m. to the regular meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

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Approved as submitted July 8, 2014 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
